

Downtown development and Main Street revitalization efforts have contributed significantly to building safer communities, stronger economies, and better quality of life across America. New Iberia, LA, is a superb example of how these cooperative efforts can improve communities. Today, I give the people of New Iberia my thanks and praise.●

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF REV. MONSIGNOR STANLEY E. MILEWSKI

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to plans to honor a distinguished religious leader in Michigan, Monsignor Stanley Milewski. Monsignor Milewski will be honored at a special service of thanksgiving followed by a dinner reception on Sunday, June 5, 2005, on the St. Mary's Orchard Lake Schools campus. The tribute will mark his 50th anniversary as a Polish-American diocesan priest.

Since his ordination into the priesthood on June 4, 1955, by Cardinal Edward Mooney in Detroit, Monsignor Milewski has been an important part of the history of the Polish pastoral ministry in Michigan and in the United States. Monsignor Milewski has earned the respect and admiration of people throughout Michigan and across the United States, and is especially admired by the approximately three-quarters of a million people of Polish descent who are part of the Archdiocese of Detroit, because of his devotion to service and confident leadership through years of ministry.

Born in Detroit to Polish immigrants on November 30, 1929, Monsignor Milewski received his primary and secondary education in Catholic parochial schools in Detroit. He earned his undergraduate degree from St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake and completed graduate studies at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, MI, and at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake. SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary enjoys the distinction of being the only Polish seminary in the United States and was founded in Detroit in 1885. Monsignor Milewski was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Alliance College in Pennsylvania and an honorary doctorate of theology degree from Madonna University in Livonia, MI. He was later appointed to the faculty of the Orchard Lake Schools in January 1957, and his responsibilities have included procurator-treasurer, teacher, athletic director, and vice rector. He served as chancellor of the Lake Orchard Schools from 1977 to 2000.

Monsignor Milewski's appointments include the Prelate of Honor of His Holiness John Paul II on March 20, 1990, Honorary Canon of the Diocese of Plock, and Honorary Canon of the Diocese of Lomza. In addition to the many recognitions and awards he has re-

ceived, Monsignor Milewski was honored to have the Pope visit the 120-acre Orchard Lake Schools campus in 1969. Of that visit, Monsignor said, "From that point on, I really got to know what a great man he was and what a tremendous memory he had." He recalls how the Pope once remarked that the seminary at Orchard Lakes was the most beautiful Polish seminary in the world. The campus includes the John Paul II center, a museum of artifacts and photos.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Monsignor Milewski on his faithfulness to his calling and on his many achievements in the pastoral ministry. I am pleased to express my sincere appreciation to him on his 50th anniversary and to wish him many more years of good health and happiness.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE WALKER

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute today to an outstanding public servant, educator, and communicator, Charlie Walker. Charlie is retiring after a distinguished 40-year career in teaching and government service at the local, State and Federal levels, most recently as director of government affairs for the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of dedicated service and contributions to the American people.

Born in Charleston, WV, Charlie spent much of his youth and career in Baltimore, MD. He was a graduate of Clifton Park Junior High and Baltimore's City College, one of the oldest and finest public high schools in the country. He won scholarships to Towson State Teachers College, now Towson University, where he excelled academically and in his extracurricular activities, selected to serve not only as president of the Phi Alpha Theta Honorary Society in history but also as a manager of three sports teams—soccer, wrestling, and track. Upon graduation in 1963, Charlie taught for 3 years in Baltimore's secondary schools and then enrolled in West Virginia University to earn a master's degree in history. In 1966, Charlie enlisted in the U.S. Army and served for a 3-year period in Vietnam and at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He returned to West Virginia University to obtain a Ph.D. in history, and worked in various and progressively responsible positions in local, State and Federal Government, including service as an historian and public affairs officer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an aide to the mayor of Baltimore and a research analyst with the Library of Congress.

In 1987, Charlie Walker was tapped to lead the public affairs office of the newly established Maryland Department of the Environment, and it was in this position that I first had the opportunity and privilege of working closely with Charlie. A highly skilled commu-

nicator and manager, Charlie assembled a terrific team to promote the initiatives of the new department and to protect and restore the quality of Maryland's air, water, and land resources. Charlie and his team set a standard for outreach and responsiveness that few, if any, agencies have been able to match. He served in this position until 1991 when he was recruited, as government affairs officer for the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to help the district restore relations and responsiveness with the Congress and other levels of government. Over the past 14 years, Charlie has been a trusted adviser to six district engineers, and the principal point of contact for Members of Congress and our staffs from the Five States and the District of Columbia, which encompass the Baltimore District's jurisdiction.

With his in-depth knowledge, political astuteness, and a dedication to public service that is second to none, Charlie has remained a constant force in moving the Army Corps of Engineers' programs and services forward. He is well known, widely respected, and well liked, not only among the staff at the Baltimore District but throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and beyond. He is the core of the Corps. His advice is constantly sought for improving communications and relations with the press, the public and with elected officials at all levels of government. Over the years, he has inspired great loyalty in the members of the Baltimore District staff and affection from the countless others with whom he has worked. He will be sorely missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Throughout the course of his career, Charlie has received numerous honors including the Commander's Award for Civil Service, Governor's Salute to Excellence Award, and the Maryland Department of the Environment Award for Outstanding Public Service. In addition to his public service, Charlie has volunteered a great deal of time and energy serving on the numerous organizations, including the Phi Alpha Theta History Society, the Society of American Military Engineers, and the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs.

It is my firm conviction that public service and teaching are among the most honorable callings. They demand the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens. Throughout his career Charlie Walker has exemplified a steadfast commitment to meeting this demand. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication and wish him well in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSIE HALE DOWNS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Today, with a great sense of honor and respect, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Jessie Hale Downs for